UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/23766
31 March 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION

(for the period 3 October 1991-31 March 1992)

Introduction

1. By paragraph 5 of its resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, the Security Council established a demilitarized zone (DMZ) along the Iraq-Kuwait border and decided to set up an observer unit with the following tasks: to monitor the Khawr Abd Allah waterway and the DMZ; to deter violations of the boundary through its presence in and surveillance of the DMZ; and to observe any hostile or potentially hostile action mounted from the territory of one State into the other. By its resolution 689 (1991) of 9 April 1991, the Security Council approved my predecessor's report on the implementation of the above provisions; 1/ noted that the decision to set up the observer unit had been taken in paragraph 5 of resolution 687 (1991) and could be terminated only by the Council's decision; and decided to review the question of termination or continuation as well as the modalities of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) every six months. In keeping with the above provisions, the Security Council reviewed UNIKOM's mandate on 7 October 1991 and concurred with my predecessor's recommendation that UNIKOM be maintained for a further six-month period. 2/

2. The purpose of the present report is to provide the Security Council, prior to its review, with an overview of the last six months of UNIKOM's activities.

Organization

3. As of April 1992, the composition of UNIKOM was as follows:

Military observers

Argentina	7	Nigeria	7
Austria	7	Norway	8
Bangladesh	7	Pakistan	9
Canada	1	Poland	7
China	20	Romania	7
Denmark	7	Russian Federation	20
Fiji	8	Senegal	7
Finland	7	Singapore	7
France	20	Sweden	7
Ghana	8	Thailand	7
Greece	7	Turkey	7
Hungary	7	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	20
India	8	United States of America	20
Indonesia	7	Uruguay	8
Ireland	8	Venezuela	7
Italy	7		
Kenya	8		
Malaysia	8		
Total			300

Administrative and logistic support

Engineers (Canada)	85
Logistics (Denmark)	45
Helicopters (Chile)	50
Medical (Norway)	20
Total	200

The above figures represent authorized strength. The actual strength is subject to minor fluctuations, particularly in connection with rotation. From 18 December 1991, a number of military observers were temporarily detached to Yugoslavia to serve as United Nations military liaison officers. Their number varied, reaching a peak of 50 during the first week of March 1992. At present, 30 military observers are still in Yugoslavia to assist the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

4. UNIKOM also includes 196 civilian staff, of whom 102 are international staff and 94 are locally recruited. In addition to the military helicopters contributed by Chile, UNIKOM has the use of two small fixed-wing civilian aircraft contributed by the Government of Switzerland and a chartered aircraft that is used to carry its personnel and equipment between Baghdad and Kuwait.

5. Command of UNIKOM continues to be exercised by Major-General Günther Greindl (Austria), the Chief Military Observer.

6. During the period under review the Canadian engineers cleared and marked an additional 200 kilometres of patrol track, disposed of 4,850 pieces of unexploded ordnance and reconfirmed the safety of previously cleared routes. They also carried out improvements at the headquarters extension known as Camp Khor and built 3 landing strips and 16 concrete helicopter landing pads in the DMZ. They also provided support to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission by placing 165 preliminary survey markers and 13 survey control points in the DMZ. As planned, the engineers will be further reduced to 50 on 1 April.

7. The Danish logistic unit, which replaced the previous Swedish unit, provided transport, including distribution of logistic supplies, as well as maintenance of heavy-duty vehicles. It also provided security for UNIKOM headquarters and the logistic base at Doha.

8. The Norwegian medical unit was reduced in strength to 20. It provides general medical support, including a sick-bay facility at Umm Qasr and first-aid posts at the central and southern sector headquarters.

9. On 1 November 1991, UNIKOM moved to its permanent headquarters at Umm Qasr in the DMZ. At the same time, the helicopter unit moved to the headquarters extension at Camp Khor, where the northern sector headquarters is also located. The headquarters premises have been refurbished and living conditions for both military personnel and civilian staff working there are now adequate. The provision of air-conditioned prefabricated trailers and other facilities has much improved conditions for the military observers working in the DMZ.

10. Major-General Greindl and his senior staff have held regular meetings with the authorities in Baghdad and Kuwait City. Daily liaison with the authorities is maintained through UNIKOM's liaison offices in the two capitals. In addition, local liaison with the Iraqi authorities is maintained at Umm Qasr. The Governments of Iraq and Kuwait have given the Mission all the support and cooperation necessary for it to carry out its mandate.

11. UNIKOM has maintained contact and provided support to other United Nations missions working in Iraq and Kuwait, in particular to the Boundary Demarcation Commission and to the United Nations Return of Property from Iraq to Kuwait (UNROP).

Demilitarized zone

12. The DMZ is about 200 kilometres long, to which must be added the Khawr Abd Allah waterway, with a length of about 40 kilometres. For the most part, the DMZ is barren and almost uninhabited, except for the towns of Umm Qasr and Safwan. There are airfields at Safwan and Umm Qasr and a port at Umm Qasr.

13. Much of the DMZ is still littered with unexploded ordnance and mines, particularly in the south. Recently the Government of Kuwait contracted with

explosive ordnance disposal companies to clear its side of the DMZ and, in consultation with UNIKOM, the companies concerned have started work.

Deployment and concept of operations

14. For operational purposes, UNIKOM has divided the DMZ into three sectors; each sector has a headquarters and six patrol/observation bases. The UNIKOM deployment is shown on the attached map. UNIKOM has full freedom of movement throughout the DMZ.

15. UNIKOM's concept of operations revolves around a combination of patrol and observation bases, observation points, vehicular and aerial patrols, investigation teams and liaison with the parties at all levels. UNIKOM's observation capability is enhanced by night observation devices and a range of visual magnifying equipment. The deployment of two maritime radar systems in its northern sector at patrol/observation bases N-1 and N-6 has much improved UNIKOM's surveillance of the Khawr Abd Allah waterway. The observation capability of UNIKOM will be further enhanced by the erection of 17 observation towers, which is currently under way.

16. UNIKOM has conducted trials of ground surveillance radars to complement its existing observation capability in the DMZ. Technical trials have taken place in the DMZ on three types of ground surveillance radar at no cost to the United Nations. These trials have not been fully conclusive and General Greindl has therefore recommended further operational trials.

Violations and complaints

17. The situation in the DMZ has been calm. UNIKOM has observed three types of violations in the DMZ: minor incursions on the ground by small groups of soldiers, often just one or two; overflights by military aircraft; and the carrying by policemen of weapons other than sidearms. The overflights were by military aircraft of types used by Kuwait and by the forces of Member States cooperating with Kuwait. In addition, UNIKOM recorded five violations (overflights) by unidentified aircraft. The table below summarizes the violations observed by UNIKOM.

	Iraq				Kuwait/Member States cooperating with Kuwait			
	Ground	Air	Police weapons	Total	Ground	Air	Police weapons	Total
3 Oct-9 Nov	1	0	0	1	11	7	14	32
10 Nov-9 Dec	0	0	0	0	8	10	5	23
10 Dec-9 Jan	0	0	1	1	5	12	5	22
10 Jan-9 Feb	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	2
10 Feb-9 Mar	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	4
10 Mar-31 Mar	0	0	0	0	6	3	8	17
Total	1	0	3	4	31	35	34	100

/...

All violations were raised in writing with the party concerned, with a view to having action taken to prevent a recurrence.

18. During the reporting period, UNIKOM received 31 written complaints from Iraq and 7 from Kuwait. UNIKOM investigated these complaints and conveyed the results to the parties concerned.

Other matters

19. UNIKOM kept in contact with the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait concerning certain aspects of civilian administration in their respective parts of the DMZ, particularly the maintenance of law and order. Iraq maintained 4 border police centres and 11 border police posts in the DMZ. Five of the police posts remain on the Kuwaiti side of the boundary line shown on the UNIKOM map and two are on the Iraqi side of the boundary but closer than 1,000 metres to it. The Chief Military Observer continued his efforts to have the seven posts pulled back. However, the Iraqi authorities have maintained that the posts must remain until the border between Iraq and Kuwait has been demarcated. Iraq has also deployed harbour police at Umm Qasr port and customs police at Safwan. Kuwait has set up 13 of 20 planned police posts in the DMZ. Both parties have consulted UNIKOM in advance of new police deployments in the DMZ. Separate biweekly meetings with the chiefs of the border police of Iraq and Kuwait were used to resolve minor problems at the local level.

20. During the period under review, UNIKOM observed an increase in the movement of Iraqi civilian ships through the Khawr Abd Allah waterway, in connection with the surveying of maritime channels and the reconstruction of the Al-Bakr oil terminal. Movement of ships is observed from the shore and also by air reconnaissance. Iraq has complied with the requirement to give advance notice of such movements.

21. Activity in the illegal market described in previous reports 3/ has declined. The market remains located astride the boundary line in the southern sector, but the authorities of Iraq and Kuwait have taken effective measures to limit access to it through intensive patrolling, checkpoints and, outside the DMZ, helicopter patrols.

22. During the last six months four incidents took place in UNIKOM's area of operations that gave cause for concern. A brief summary of these incidents follows:

(a) On 10 October 1991, 55 Iraqi fishermen were detained north-east of Failaka Island by the Kuwaiti authorities, which claimed that they were within Kuwaiti territorial waters. This was disputed by the fishermen and by the Iraqi authorities. It has proved impossible for UNIKOM to ascertain the actual location where the fishermen were apprehended. They were eventually returned to Iraq through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 26 October 1991;

(b) On 18 October 1991, Iraq complained that a Kuwaiti patrol entered Iraq near Safwan, wounding a local farmer with rifle fire and forcibly detaining two others, and allegedly firing on an Iraqi police post at Safwan. UNIKOM's investigation concluded that the incident took place on the Kuwaiti side of the DMZ, close to the boundary, in an area where Iraqis had been farming prior to 2 August 1990. UNIKOM could not verify the claim that the Iraqi police post had been fired on;

(c) On 2 November 1991, 12 Iraqi policemen were delivering salary packets, rations and supplies to their police posts Al-Ratqa and Talha, in the central sector of the DMZ. When the policemen finished their task at Al-Ratqa, they drove towards Talha on UNIKOM's Mike Road, which crosses the boundary line in several places. The Iraqis were intercepted by Kuwaiti personnel armed with rifles. The Iraqis were detained for interrogation; Kuwaiti authorities took control of their vehicle, pistols, ammunition and supplies, as well as a sum of Iraqi dinars. The detained Iraqis were repatriated under the supervision of ICRC on 7 December 1991;

(d) On 7 January 1992, two Kuwaiti policemen were apprehended at the Iraqi police post Umm Qasr, which is one of the five on the Kuwaiti side of the boundary line shown on UNIKOM's map. A UNIKOM investigation concluded that the two policemen had lost their way and had approached the Iraqi post by mistake. The two were returned to Kuwait through ICRC on 25 January 1992.

Three of the above incidents occurred near the boundary line. UNIKOM has repeatedly urged both parties to comply with the requirement that they maintain a reasonable distance of about 1,000 metres from the line in order to avoid such incidents.

Financial aspects

23. By its resolution 46/197 of 20 December 1991, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the operation of UNIKOM at a rate not to exceed $5,600,000 gross ($5,441,500 net) per month for the six-month period beginning 9 April 1992, subject to the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, should the Security Council decide to continue the Observation Mission beyond 8 April 1992. Therefore, assuming continuance of the Mission's existing responsibilities, the costs to the United Nations for maintaining UNIKOM during the six-month period through 8 October 1992 will be within the level of commitment authorized by the Assembly in its resolution 46/197.

24. As at 23 March 1992, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNIKOM Special Account for the period since the inception of the Mission on 9 April 1991 up to 8 April 1992 amounted to $18.2 million.

Observations

25. During the past six months, conditions along the border between Iraq and Kuwait have been calm and the DMZ established by the Security Council has been generally respected. The number of violations has been further reduced and those that occurred have been minor.

26. UNIKOM has continued to maintain a high level of vigilance and has performed its tasks effectively. In this it has had the cooperation of both parties. I have no doubt that the presence and activities of UNIKOM in the area are essential for ensuring respect for the DMZ and maintaining calm in the area. Therefore, I recommend to the Security Council that it maintain UNIKOM for a further six-month period.

27. In order to avoid incidents, UNIKOM requires the authorities on both sides to maintain a reasonable distance from the boundary line drawn on UNIKOM's map. The importance of this principle is underlined by the fact that three of the four incidents reported in paragraph 22 above occurred on occasions when it was not observed. It is my hope that both sides will ensure that there is no recurrence.

28. The continued presence of Iraqi police posts on the Kuwaiti side of the line shown on UNIKOM's map remains a matter of concern.

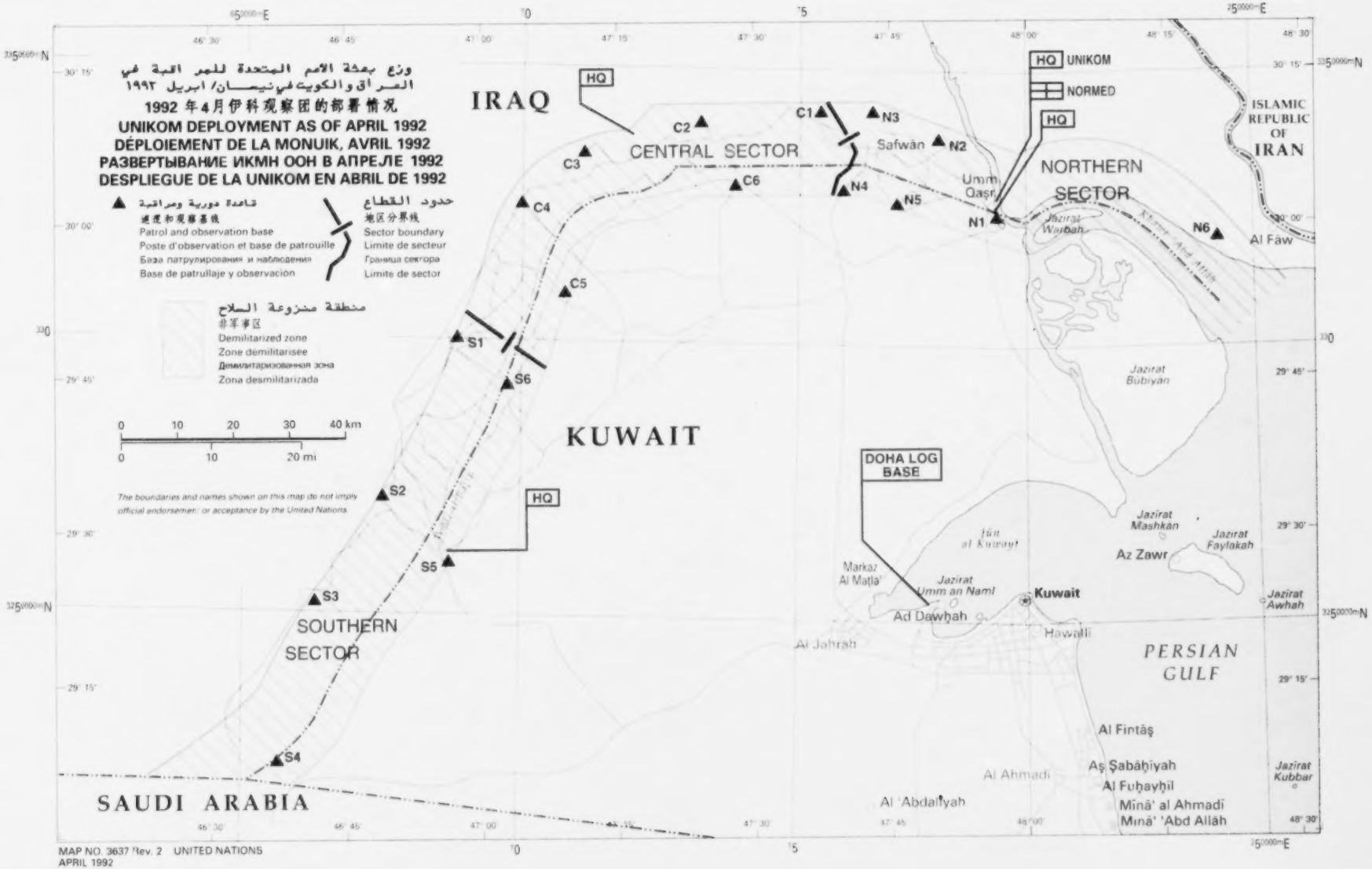
29. Finally, I wish to pay tribute to Major-General Greindl and to all the men and women under his command, both military and civilian, for the skill and dedication with which they have carried out their important task. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on their countries and on the United Nations.

Notes

1/ S/22454 and Add.1-3.

2/ S/23106.

3/ S/23000, para. 11, and S/23106, para. 28.


وزع بعثة الامم المتحدة للمراقبة في العراق والكويت في نيسان/ ابريل ١٩٩٢
1992 年4月伊科观察团的部署情况
UNIKOM DEPLOYMENT AS OF APRIL 1992
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA MONUIK, AVRIL 1992
РАЗВЕРТЫВАНИЕ ИКМН ООН В АПРЕЛЕ 1992
DESPLIEGUE DE LA UNIKOM EN ABRIL DE 1992
قاعدة دورية ومراقبة
巡逻和观察基地
Patrol and observation base
Poste d'observation et base de patrouille
База патрулирования и наблюдения
Base de patrullaje y observación
حدود القطاع
地区分界线
Sector boundary
Limite de secteur
Граница сектора
Limite de sector
منطقة منزوعة السلاح
非军事区
Demilitarized zone
Zone demilitarisee
Демилитаризованная зона
Zona desmilitarizada
0 10 20 30 40 km
0 10 20 mi
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
IRAQ
KUWAIT
SAUDI ARABIA
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
PERSIAN GULF
HQ
HQ UNIKOM
NORMED
CENTRAL SECTOR
NORTHERN SECTOR
SOUTHERN SECTOR
DOHA LOG BASE
C1
C2
C3
C4
C5
C6
N1
N2
N3
N4
N5
N6
S1
S2
S3
S4
S5
S6
Safwān
Umm Qasr
Al Faw
Jazirat Warbah
Jazirat Bubiyan
Jazirat Mashkan
Jazirat Faylakah
Az Zawr
Kuwait
Markaz Al Maṭlaʻ
Jazirat Umm an Naml
Ad Dawḥah
Hawallī
Jazirat Awhah
Al Jahrah
Al Fintās
Aṣ Ṣabāḥiyah
Al Fuḥayḥil
Al Ahmadi
Mīnāʼ al Ahmadī
Mīnāʼ ʻAbd Allāh
Al ʻAbdalīyah
Jazirat Kubbar
MAP NO. 3637 Rev. 2 UNITED NATIONS
APRIL 1992